

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03344 162342Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----016134 162353Z /61  
P 161301Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7201

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3344

STADIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS////////////////

FOR DICK MOOSE (AF) AND TOM SMITH (AF/W) ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL TRIP

REF: (A) STATE 056214, (B) STATE 056215

1. REGRETTABLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WERE LARGELY THE PRODUCT, AS YOU RIGHTFULLY POINT OUT, OF FAILURE OF OUR TELEGRAM OF FEBRUARY 23 (LAGOS 2324) TO REACH ITS RECIPIENTS SOON ENOUGH. YOU SUGGESTED THAT TRANSMISSION WAS DELAYED IN LAGOS, STATING THAT IN FACT OUR TELEGRAM DID NOT REACH YOU UNTIL MARCH 2. OUR RECORDS SHOW IT WAS TRANSMITTED FROM HERE AT 231654Z, RELAYED BY MONROVIA 23 MINUTES LATER, AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DEPARTMENT (OCT/T) ONE MINUTE AFTER THAT (231718Z). (KADUNA RECEIVED THE MESSAGE ON TIME AS WELL.) WE HAVE SINCE RECEIVED A SERVICE MESSAGE FROM OC/T ADMITTING MISHANDLING AT THEIR END AND STATING THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

2. OUR CONCERN OVER WASHINGTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIP HAD BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE HARD TIME MEA GAVE TO EMBASSY OFFICERS FEBRUARY 24 REGARDING WHAT THE FMG CONSIDERED OUR UNILATERAL RELEASE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT. AS INDICATED IN OUR TELEGRAM 2409 OF FEBRUARY 25, THE FMG HAD EXPECTED TO BE ABLE  
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TO CLEAR THE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH OBASANJO AND WAS EMBARRASSED TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO HIM WHY THIS HAD NOT HAPPENED. THEY TOLD US HE PERSONALLY HAD EXPRESSED HIS ANNOYANCE. THAT'S THE KIND OF THING I AM PAID TO PREVENT.

3. YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI'S FULL TEXT IS LESS DISTURBING THAN THE WIRELESS FILE VERSION. UNFORTUNATELY,

ALL WE HAD TO WORK WITH WAS THE FILE, AND WE FELT WE HAD TO MOVE QUICKLY.

4. WE CERTAINLY DID NOT INTEND THAT OUR MESSAGE BE 'HARSH' OR 'ACCUSATORY.' IT WAS MOTIVATED SOLELY BY OUR URGENT CONCERN THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA NOT BE JEOPARDIZED BY THIN-SKINNED REACTION FROM OUR PRICKLY HOSTS. I SLUGGED THE MESSAGE TO BE PASSED TO THE WHITE HOUSE PRECISELY BECAUSE I THOUGHT THIS WOULD ASSIST YOU. YOU WOULD KNOW I COULD HARDLY QUESTION THE AFRICAN BUREAU'S SENSITIVELY TO NIGERIAN CONCERNS AND POLICY IMPERATIVES. AS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF, WE FELT WE WERE JUSTIFIED IN BELIEVING THAT SOME OF THEM MIGHT HAVE NEED OF AND NOT OBJECT TO A REMAINDER.

5. I APPRECIATE THE CANDOR OF YOUR COUNSEL, DICK, AND AM GRATIFIED YOU KNOW YOU COULD WRITE ME IN SUCH STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS. WE HAVE TAKEN IT TO HEART, AND I ASSURE YOU WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO AVOID ANY SIMILAR UNPLEASANTNESS IN THE COMING WEEKS. IF YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO SEND A PERSONAL NOTE, PERHAPS ALONG SOME OF THE ABOVE LINES, TO DR. BRZEZINSKI, I WOULD OF COURSE BE PLEASED TO DO SO.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, CAT-C, CAT-B, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, DEPARTMENTAL TELEGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LAGOS03344  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL TRIP  
**TAGS:** OVIP, AINF, US, NI, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
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**Type:** TE  
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